

CLAIMS:

1. A method of decreasing the dynamic range of a signal comprising the steps of:

- determining a property of the signal (c),
- determining a limitation parameter (s) based on the property of the signal,
- limiting the signal by means of the limitation parameter,

5 - clipping the limited signal.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the following steps for determining the property of the signal:

- windowing of the signal,
- determining of the ratio of the signal maximum within the window and the signal RMS value within the window.

3. The method of claim 2, whereby no clipping is performed when the ratio is below a predefined threshold.

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4. The method of claims 2 or 3 further comprising:

- comparing the ratio to the threshold,
- determining of the limitation parameter independently from the ratio if the ratio is below the threshold.

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5. The method of claim 3 or 4, whereby the threshold is substantially equal to or above the ratio obtained for a sinusoid signal.

25 6. The method of anyone of the preceding claims 2 to 5, whereby the ratio is modified by a correction factor (K) and the limitation parameter is determined based on the modified ratio.

7. The method of anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 6 further comprising the following steps for determining the limitation parameter based on the property:

- determining of the signal maximum within the window,
- attenuation of the signal maximum in proportion to the ratio,
- filtering of the attenuated maximum,
- calculation of the limitation parameter by dividing the maximum (M) of the dynamic range by the filtered maximum, if the filtered maximum is above the maximum of the dynamic range.

8. An electronic circuit comprising means for performing a method in accordance with anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 7.

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9. The electronic circuit of claim 8, whereby the electronic circuit is an audio circuit.

10. A computer program for performing a method in accordance with anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 7.

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